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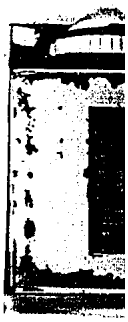

DEVELOPMENT OF THE RUMANIAN WOOD, PAPER, AND CELLULOSE INDUSTRY

Probleme Economice
Bucharest, May - Jun 1953

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In order to meet the heavy demands made on the Rumanian wood, paper, and cellulose industry, a number of broad measures were attempted. The first was to exploit more economically the forest recources of the country. The second was to modernize the obsolete transportation system used in carrying wood. The third was to train personnel in the use of the new machines and equipment. The fourth was to improve workers' living conditions.

Following the nationalization of the wood industry, the state invested large amounts of money in the repair and development of older enterprises and the creation of new ones. The Sovromlemn plants in Vaduri and Vatra Dornei are the newest in the wood industry. Other plants mechanized their sawmills, shops, loading and unloading ramps, and the log and plank depots. Almost all factories now have new saws, conveyers, band saws, belts, and other devices for speeding work. New lumber mills were built in Babeni, Falticeni, Stalpeni, Baia Mare, Orastie, and Ciurea. Two new furniture factoies were built in Simo Geza and in Libertatea.

Insufficient Mechanization

One major problem, however, is insufficient mechanization in the production and processing of wood. According to the Five-Year Plan, mechanization of mill work must reach 33 percent by 1955, and mechanization of wood loading and unloading should be 22 percent. It is further planned to build new railroads for transportation of lumber and to mechanize 80 percent of wood cutting and transportation. To achieve this degree of mechanization, the Soviet Union furnished Rumania with electric and mechanical saws, cranes, and mountain tractors. Through this aid, labor productivity rose 219 percent. As one example, the KT-12 tractor performs the work usually done by ten teams of oxen.

Adoption of Soviet methods of labor resulted in 300 percent overfulfillment of norms. Some of these methods are: simultaneous working of two saw frames, as adopted by the Frasin factory; boiling of the cellulose according to the Sokol method; artificial drying of wood, according to the Krechetov method; and the use of the Mikhaylov method.

The following table shows the growth of the wood, paper, and cellulose industry from 1949-1952.

Plan Indexes	1949	1950	1951	1952
Total production	100	136.2	162.2	182
Labor productivity	100	111.9	125.1	138.1
Average salary	100	114.7	123.8	130
Investments	100	248	359	472

Labor productivity made particular progress during the first years of the Five-Year Plan. There are almost 80,000 employees in the wood industry at present. The most outstanding of these are 10,437 leaders in production and 1,208 Stakhanovites.

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The average worker's salary rose 30 percent in the period from 1949 to 1952, and living conditions improved correspondingly. From 1950 to the present, 929 cabins were erected for sheltering about 20,000 workers. The number of workers increased annually. From 1949 to 1951, there was an increase in workers of nearly 30 percent, and their technical knowledge was also raised considerably. From 1949 to 1952, more than 40,000 men were rated as qualified workers.

Work in the third year of the Five-Year Plan is progressing well. Even though the norms for the first quarter of 1953 were fulfilled only 97.7 percent, they were still higher than in the same period of 1952, as shown by the following table:

Plan Indexes	First Quarter 1952	First Quarter 1953
Total production	100	115.2
Labor productivity	100	111.5
Average salary	100	110.0
Investments	100	126.7

Losses in Wood Exploitation

Losses during exploitation of wood constitute another major problem. Beech trees, which make up 37 percent of Rumania's forests, have been wasted to a large extent. Only recently were losses checked and production has begun to show an increase. The rate of use of beech wood for industrial purposes is as follows, for the period of the Five-Year Plan.

Beech Wood Used			Plan		
1950	1951	1952	1953	1954	1955
100%	152%	199%	221%	241%	266%

Even the most economical exploitation of past years incurred losses as high as 25 - 30 percent of the total volume of trees cut. By a more careful handling and cutting of the wood, savings of 8 - 10 percent of the total volume of the trees and 2 - 2.5 percent of the wood have recently been accomplished.

By using streams to transport timber, wood losses were further reduced by at least 5 percent. At present, wood transportation is 80 percent mechanized. This has effected a 1.5 percent reduction in the loss of logs and 5 percent reduction in the loss of cut wood. The over-all figures of the first years of the Five-Year Plan show a reduction in wood losses of 25 percent in resinous trees, 28 percent in beech trees, and 50 percent in other trees.

Problems in Wood Sorting and Transportation

The quality of lumber is dependent upon the proper sorting of wood. This is closely related to the need for better trained personnel who know how to sort wood and how to store it under optimal conditions. For example, beech wood depreciates in summer due to heat; therefore, beech logs must be preserved in special water basins or in artificial lakes.

Transportation of lumber presents another problem. In order to improve hauling conditions, an order was issued in 1948 to set up a centrally directed supply of draft animals belonging to the forestry industry. At the same time, wood mills were furnished with mechanical aids such as tractors and cableways, for the more efficient exploitation of wood.

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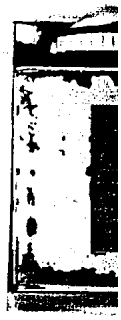

Labor Productivity

Sound organization of the labor force has been found to be the best means of increasing labor productivity. Soviet methods are applied currently in all phases of work. For example, each brigade is composed of at least four employees who work as a unit. Each brigade divides its work into several phases, so that each man receives an assignment commensurate with his knowledge and physical endurance. Even women are being employed in work that does not require strenuous physical effort. Some 65 brigades were working in 1949, and 618 in 1950. The latter number comprised approximately 6,000 workers.

This rapid rise in the number of workers was initiated by an order of the Council of Ministers, issued on 3 October 1950, which aimed at improving the working conditions of the workers. In 1951, there were 1,022 brigades. In 1952. over 50 percent of the wood industry's entire labor force was engaged in mill work.

A second decree passed by the Council of Ministers on 25 December 1952 reduced the fluctuation in price and improved the living conditions of workers in the wood industry. Following this decree, the average worker's salary rose 14 percent in the first quarter of 1953. Moreover, seasonal prizes, seniority bonuses, brigade bonuses, and collective prizes helped to increase labor productivity and to improve the quality of goods. During the first quarter of 1953, the average worker's salary rose 14 percent as compared to the same period in 1952.

Transportation of Wood

Through the aid of the party and of the USSR, a large number of locomotives, railroad cars, trucks, and other hauling equipment was supplied to Rumanian forestry enterprises. The number of locomotives was 15 percent greater at the end of 1952 than in 1950, and the number of railroad cars increased by 41 percent. The number of trucks and truck trailers increased 400 percent in the past 4 years.

At present, two major faults still exist, however: the number of flat cars is below the specified norms, and transportation facilities are not fully utilized. Trains and trucks are not routed scientifically but are often sent indiscriminately to localities where there are insufficient quantities of wood to be hauled. Consequently, cars return with a reduced load or sometimes without any load at all.

Another fault is the failure of the authorities to publicize, to the rest of the industry, information on innovations in use at one particular enterprise. For example, the IFET (Intreprinderile Forestriere de Exploatare si Transport, Enterprise for the Exploitation and Transport of Wood) in Sibiu has been using a mechanical log-loading device for the past 2 years. Even though this device reduces the loading time from 2 hours to 5 minutes, it was not made known to other plants, even those in the same sector. To overcome some of these difficulties, the Ministry of Wood, Paper, and Cellulose summoned a general meeting of all Stakhanovites and leaders in production.

Industrialization of Wood Industry

Due to several organizational regroupings, the number of factories were reduced 60 percent, but production increased 30 percent. The production of planks from deciduous trees increased over 30[illegible] percent from 1948-1952. Similarly high percentages were reached in the production of wood boxes, parquet floors, and prefabricated houses.

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The leading wood enterprise is Sovromlemn. The number of trucks owned by this enterprise increased five times from 1949 to the present. The number of cranes increased five times since 1951, tractors increased ten times, and electric saws increased seven times. This resulted in a 1,200 percent increase in the production of mill work.

Due to such improvements, the industrial production of wood showed a steady rise, as follows:

	1947	1950	1951	1952
Total production	100	495	615	719
Production of goods	100	495	618	755

Finished Products

As a result of the improvements in the exploitation of wood, satisfactory results were obtained in the production of finished wood products. Twice as many matches, twice as many barrels, and three times as much furniture were produced in 1952, as compared to 1949. Workers' productivity increased correspondingly, as follows:

1948	1949	1950	1951	1952
	Percent			
100	69.4*	124.2	171.5	217

*The decrease during 1949 was due to a reorganization of the wood industry.

Due to improved methods, the Rumanian wood products industry is now producing an increasing variety of furniture, much of which is destined for export. Two problems still exist, however: the quality of goods is often below standard and the range of selections is very limited.

Cellulose and Paper Industry

The increased production registered in Rumania's paper industry was brought about in order to permit publication of countless new books and pamphlets, which are appearing on the market. Numerous production improvements were made in the paper industry. The N. Balcescu factory installed new vats for mixing the acids used in wood boiling and new equipment for the rapid mixing of acids. As a result, the cellulose production of this factory was increased by 16 percent as compared to the 1949 figures. The Steaua Rosie factory recently installed a large boiler for the preparation of cellulose.

The machinery in the paper industry has an 85 percent maximum utilization. This maximum theoretical use of the equipment has made possible a steady growth of industrial production, which is shown as follows:

	1950	1951	1952
Value of total production	1005	1101	1216

Production of paper registered a growth of 25 percent in 1952, as compared to 1949. In recent years, Rumania has begun producing paper products which heretofore had been imported. Some of these are tracing paper, filter paper, paper for photographic purposes, electrotechnical paper, cardfold and carbon paper, pressed cardboard, and cardboard molds.

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Taken as a whole, there are good prospects for a further growth of the wood and paper industry in Rumania. Workers are increasing the number of innovations. During 1952 alone, 143 innovations were successfully put into operation. In the course of the next few years, new plants will be built for the production of cellulose, artificial silk, and paper bags; and for the conversion of reed into cellulose and paper. The present production of paper and cardboard is expected to double.

Two Rumanian institutes have proved of particular value to the industry: The IPROIL (Institutul de Proiectari din Industria Lemnului, Institute for Planning in the Wood Industry) completed certain projects, which in the past were not even attempted. The ICEIL (Institutul de Cercetari pentru Industria Lemnului, Institute of Research for the Wood Industry) solved the problem of converting Danube-delta reed into paper. It also formulated instructions for the best methods of mechanizing forestry exploitation and of conserving beech logs. Almost 500 graduates of the ICEIL are expected to join the ranks of forestry engineers by the end of 1955.

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